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Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Working Group on Development of the Convention

Fourth meeting
Geneva, 28 and 29 April 2014
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda of the fourth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on 28 April 2014*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Amendment of annex I to the Convention.
3. Other amendments to the Convention.
4. Possible remedies for non-compliance with the reporting requirements of the Convention.
5. Next steps and closure of the meeting.

* Delegates wishing to attend the meeting are requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) website (http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm), and to transmit it to the Convention secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting by e-mail to the following address: teia.conv@unece.org. On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the ECE website, http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/meetings/UN_map_Feb.2012.pdf). In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 2439.

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. At its fourth meeting, the Working Group on Development of the Convention (Working Group on Development) under the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents is expected to plan its work for the period up to the next (eighth) meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 3–5 December 2014), following the mandate received from the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting (Stockholm, 14–16 November 2012).

2. This provisional agenda was prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) secretariat in agreement with the Chair of the Working Group.

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

3. The Chair of the Working Group on Development will open the fourth meeting and invite members of the Working Group to adopt the agenda, as set out in the present document.

2. Amendment of annex I to the Convention

4. The Conference of the Parties entrusted the Working Group on Development to draft a revised annex I to bring it into line with the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) (ST/SG/AC.10/30/Rev.4) and to maintain consistency with corresponding European Union (EU) legislation.[1] The Conference of the Parties also decided that the proposed amendment should be circulated to the Parties not less than 90 days in advance of its next meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/24, para. 65).

5. As of May 2013, the secretariat had received feedback from 11 members of a small group which had been established within the Working Group on Development to work on the proposed revisions to annex I. The majority of members of this small group were of the opinion that annex I to the Convention should be harmonized to the maximum possible extent with annex I to the Seveso III Directive,[1] including part 2 on named dangerous substances.

6. At the third meeting of the Working Group on Development (Geneva, 3–4 September 2013), a revised annex I to the Convention was presented for discussion. The Working Group agreed to recommend the proposed amendments to annex I, parts 1 and 2, with minor editorial adjustments proposed by some delegations.

7. The Working Group had also agreed on the need to update the introduction to annex I, for which the EU delegation would to provide a revised text, further agreed to the proposal by the EU delegation to include some additional substances in part 2 — ethyleneimine; acetylene; propylene oxide; and tetrahydro-3,5-dimethyl-1,3,5,-thiadiazine-2-thione (diazomet) — to ensure consistency with the Seveso III Directive and application of the specific thresholds provided for these substances, maintaining their specific thresholds, even in case of future changes in their general EU/GHS classification.

[1] Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances, amending and subsequently repealing Council Directive 96/82/EC (SEVESO III Directive).

8. The revised version of annex I, parts 1 and 2, containing the above-mentioned changes, is contained in the annex to the report of the third meeting of the Working Group on Development (ECE/CP.TEIA/WG.1/2013/2).

9. The Working Group on Development is expected to agree on a revised annex I that will then be submitted for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.

3. Other proposed amendments to the Convention

10. At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties, wishing to minimize the frequency of amendments to the Convention, also requested the Working Group on Development to evaluate the possible amendment of the Convention to address the following provisions and issues:

(a) Revised and additional definitions (art. 1);

(b) Revised scope (art. 2);

(c) Strengthened public participation (art. 9);

(d) Revised scope of mutual assistance (art. 12);

(e) Clarified frequency of meetings (art. 18, para. 1);

(f) Clarified or strengthened reporting obligations (art. 23);

(g) Accession by other Member States of the United Nations (art. 29);

(h) Application of amendments to new Parties (art. 29);

(i) Provisions on land-use planning;

(j) Provisions on the review of compliance;

(k) Governance structures under the Convention.

(l) Derogation (added upon request of the Bureau at its meeting in January 2013).

11. The Working Group will consider the updated background paper on possible amendments to the Convention (informal document WG.1–2014.Inf.1), containing summaries of key messages which emerged during the discussions on proposed amendments at the Working Group's third meeting, as well as additional information, prepared by a consultant, on options and pros and cons relevant to the proposed amendments.

12. Before the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Development, the secretariat will seek the views of the members of a small group on other possible amendments to the Convention, established by the Working Group to draft the background paper on the proposed amendments.

13. The Working Group will be invited to discuss each of the proposed amendments in the light of the information contained in the background paper, and to decide which of the proposed amendments should be recommended to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, for possible adoption at the ninth meeting in 2016.

14. The Working Group on Development is expected to agree on the final version of the background document to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties, including the prioritization of the proposed amendments.

4. Possible remedies for non-compliance with the reporting requirements of the Convention

15. The Conference of the Parties requested the Working Group on Development to consider possible remedies for non-compliance with the reporting requirements of the Convention (see ECE/CP.TEIA/24, in particular para. 16, and informal document WG.1–2014.Inf.2).

16. Before the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Development, the secretariat will seek the views of members of the Working Group's small group on possible amendments of the Convention, regarding possible modalities for discussion of this issue as well as on elements which could be taken into account to support the discussion on this topic during the fourth meeting.

5. Next steps and closure of the meeting

17. The Working Group on Development will discuss next steps, after which the Chair is expected to close the meeting no later than 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 29 April 2014.